



County of Los Angeles
Military and Veterans Affairs
1816 S. Figueroa Street
Los Angeles, California 90015
877- 4 - LAVETS
mva.lacounty.gov



ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

32 June 4, 2019

CELIA ZAVALA
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

June 04, 2019

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**ACCEPT STATE FUNDS UNDER CALIFORNIA PROPOSITION 63 (MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT) – OUTSIDE THE WIRE-TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) requests your Board's approval to enter into a contract with the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA) to receive funding under Proposition 63 Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) for the Outside the Wire-Transition Assistance Program. The grant covers the period of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Delegate authority to the Director of DMVA, or her designee, to execute a one-year contract with CDVA for the provision of the Outside the Wire-Assistance Program. The maximum sum for the one-year term will be \$343,000.
2. Delegate authority to the Director of DMVA, or her designee, to execute amendments to the contract with CDVA, as necessary, to accept additional funding, should such funds become available. Delegated authority is contingent upon approval by County Counsel, and written notification of at least ten business days to the Board and CEO.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Community colleges have proven to be excellent environments for prevention and early intervention

of mental illness. Independent of one another MVA and United States Veterans Initiative (U.S. Vets) have worked with college campus' Veteran Resource Centers to improve the transition of veterans from the military to the community. MVA's specialty is peer benefit counseling, claims development, and case management; U.S. Vets is the developer of the acclaimed Outside the Wire program, which provides prevention and early intervention counseling and case management to veterans and their families. OTW-TA builds on the success of the DMVA Veterans Outreach Liaison program (FY18-19), which was established with CDVA support. Both agencies will partner at 13 different community college campuses in Los Angeles County offering orientation presentations and workshops on key topics like veterans' transition challenges, trauma-informed care, and military culture. Post 9/11 veterans will receive stigma-free prevention and early intervention services that address the root causes of reintegration problems. Decreasing the number of stressors and increasing connection to others are key strategies in the approach. MVA's Communication team will prepare marketing materials for the program and an education piece that dispels myths about help-seeking and benefits procurement. Arming transitioning families with such information is among CDVA recommended practices. Once a student self-refers or is referred by another program on campus, they will be introduced to their personal MVA representative/veteran and meet their provider. OTW-TA will address Mental Health, Benefits, Justice Involvement, Workforce Development, Homeless Assistance, Whole-Family Care, and Suicide Prevention.

Board approval is required to accept grant funds from CDVA.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended actions support the County's Strategic Goal 1: Make Investments That Transform Lives: Address society's most complicated social, health, and public safety challenges by increasing our focus on prevention initiatives; and enhancing our delivery of comprehensive interventions.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The recommended actions will have no impact on net county cost. The program is fully financed by California Proposition 63 mental health funds.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

California Proposition 63 (Mental Health Services ACT or MHSA), passed in 2004. It provides increased funding for personnel and other resources to support County mental health programs. DMVA initiated action to obtain a portion of those monies from CDVA to provide services to military veterans and their families.

CDVA awarded DMVA a grant of \$25,000 for the period January 1, 2014 through October 31, 2015; a grant of \$20,000 from October 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016; and a grant of \$40,000 from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 to support Mental Health Outreach and Supportive Services for veterans, including treatment and other related recovery programs. These programs reduce the long-term, adverse impact of untreated, serious mental illness.

The Department applied for funds and was awarded not to exceed \$343,000.

Payment will be made in accordance with an agreement between DMVA and CDVA which memorializes the use of the funds.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

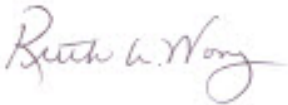
The recommended actions will enhance current services and ensure continuation of the Department's veteran's mental health outreach activities.

CONCLUSION

Upon approval of this request, please instruct the Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors to send the original Board letter and attachments as soon as possible to:

Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
Attention: Ruth A. Wong, Director
1816 S. Figueroa Street
Los Angeles, California 90015

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Ruth A. Wong". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

RUTH A. WONG
Director

RAW:rb